

The committee consisting of Mr. Gerry, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Hardy, to whom were referred a motion of Mr. Gerry, and a motion of Mr. Howell, submit the following resolves.

February 28, 1785

The **COMMITTEE** consisting of Mr. Gerry, Mr. Williamson and Mr. Hardy, to whom were referred a **MOTION** of Mr. Gerry, and a **MOTION** of Mr. Howell, submit the following **RESOLVES**.

WHEREAS it must conduce to the preservation of public credit, and the equal distribution of justice, that the amount of the national debt be ascertained with the utmost expedition; and as delay in the settlement of accounts, tend to render them obscure, and to encourage frauds by preventing the means of detecting them,

RESOLVED, That all persons having unliquidated claims against the United States, be required within twelve months from the date hereof, to deliver a particular abstract of such claims to some commissioner in the state in which they respectively reside, who is authorized to settle accounts against the United States; and any person or persons neglecting to deliver their claims as aforesaid, shall be precluded from any adjustment of the same, except at the board of treasury. Provided if no Comr. in any State 12 mos allowed from the Appt. of such Comr. & his entering upon the Duties of his office.

RESOLVED, That all persons who shall neglect to deliver in in a particular abstract of their claims as aforesaid to the commissioner of accounts within one year, or to the board of treasury within two years from the date hereof, or from the time, a Commr. shall have been

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appointed; where & entered upon the Duties of his office shall be excluded from the benefit of settlement or allowance.

RESOLVED, That the commissioners of accounts appointed under the resolutions of 27th February, 1782, be instructed to re-remove their respective offices to the place in which Congress resides, before the first of May next, unless such except such of them as by special order of Congress have been appointed to settle accounts in some other place.

Accounts to be Exhibited within 12 mos. Pass'd